



3-6 DISCOVER Stranded Famous Parachutist

A professional parachutist, George Hopkins, brought media attention to Devils Tower on October 1, 1941. Without the permission of the National Park Service, he jumped from an airplane and landed on the top of Devils Tower. Hopkins planned to climb down using a rope which was dropped from the plane. Unfortunately, the rope landed on the side of the Tower beyond Hopkins' reach. The National Park Service and Hopkins had a problem...how was Hopkins to get down?

Thousands of curious readers learned about Hopkins' predicament through the newspaper. Telegrams and letters of advice on how to rescue Hopkins arrived at Devils Tower. Blankets and food were dropped by plane to the parachutist.

Why didn't they use a helicopter, you wonder? Helicopters were not in common use at that time so another solution was necessary.

After six days, mountain climber Jack Durrance led a rescue mission to the top of Devils Tower. The climbers found George Hopkins in good condition, and they all made it safely to the bottom of Devils Tower. About 7,000 visitors came to watch the famous rescue!

